

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BE, CG PFOR
SUBJECT: BELGIAN/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS: GOZ REJECTS GOB MEMORANDUM RE
CHOME AFFAIR

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 1945, (B) KINSHASA 2700, (C) KINSHASA 2647

1. FOLLOWING DELIVERY GOB MEMORANDUM RE JULES CHOME AFFAIR BY
ZAIRIAN AMB ELEBE MARCH 30, MOBUTU CALLED SPECIAL MEETING OF
SELECTED MEMBERS OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC). AFTERWARD
NEC REJECTED GOB STATEMENT ON GROUNDS IT CONTAINED NOTHING NEW,
AND PROCEEDED TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) GOB STATEMENT
REPETITION OF VAGUE PRINCIPLES ALREADY VOICED BY BELGIAN PRESS.
2) CURRENT BELGIAN CARETAKER GOVERNMENT HAS PUT CONTROVERSY
BETWEEN ZAIRE AND BELGIUM IN BUSINESS AS USUAL CATEGORY. 3) NEC
SUPPORTS EARLIER DECISION BY MOBUTU TO AWAIT FORMATION OF NEW
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER CLARIFY ALL ASPECTS OF BELGO-ZAIRIAN
COOPERATION. 4) NEC CANNOT TOLERATE CONTINUED ATTACKS ON
GRANDEUR AND DIGNITY OF THE PRESIDENT, FREELY CHOSEN AND VENERATED
BY ZAIRIAN PEOPLE. IF PERSON OF BELGIAN KING SACRED, PERSON OF
MOBUTU ALL THE MORE SO. 5) CONTROVERSY BETWEEN BELGIUM AND
Zaire IS SERIOUS. IF FUTURE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT FAILS TO PROVIDE
SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION, ZAIRE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO
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ABROGATE UNILATERALLY TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH BELGIUM. FROM

THAT POINT ON, ZAIRIAN RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM WOULD LOSE ALL SPECIAL CHARACTER AND ANY ACT BY A BELGIAN WHICH DENIGRATED ZAIRE OR MOBUTU WOULD BE MET WITH INDIFFERENCE. 6) ZAIRIAN LEADERS HAVE THE EXALTED TASK OF BUILDING GREAT NATION IN HEART OF AFRICA FOR WELFARE OF ZAIRIAN PEOPLE. BELGIAN INTERFERENCE IN ZAIRE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE MULTIPLIED, WITNESS KATANGA SECESSION, BELGIAN LED MERCENARIES IN KISANGANI AND BUKAVU, AND NOW JULES CHOME BOOK. ZAIRE LET PASS IN SILENCE RECENT ATTACK ON ITS EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS BY TWO BELGIAN COMMANDOS WHICH HAS CREATED FEELING OF INSECURITY IN ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, AND ZAIRE WISHES END ALL AMBIGUITY IN RELATIONSHIP WITH BELGIUM. FRIENDSHIP HAS ITS DEMANDS. A SIGNIFICANT LESSON IN FRIENDSHIP IS ONE GIVEN TO BELGIUM BY ONE OF ITS GREAT NEIGHBORS (I.E. FRANCE).

2. BELGIAN EMBASSY HERE CURRENTLY OSTRASIZED BY GOZ AT ALL LEVELS. AMBASSADOR VANDEN BLOOCK NOT INVITED TO DINNER FOR ALL DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION OFFERED BY FONMIN UMBA MARCH 29, NOR TO OPENING OF NATLEGCOUNCIL APRIL 1. AT PRESENT NO COMMUNICATIONS PASSING DIRECTLY BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GOZ OFFICIALS. BELGIAN DIPLOMATS, WHILE DISTURBED OVER LATEST TURN OF EVENTS, TELL US ABROGATION OF TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES, AT LEAST IN SHORT RUN. GOB AID AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES COULD PRESUMABLY CONTINUE SINCE THEY DO NOT COME WITHIN TREATY'S FRAMEWORK. MAIN DIRECT EFFECT WOULD BE DROPPING OF SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL AND LOSS BY GOB (AND PRESUMABLY GOZ) OF RIGHT TO INVOKE SPECIAL STATUS WHEN MUTUAL PROBLEMS ARISE. FOR EXAMPLE, LEBURTON INVOKED TREATY IN TALKS WITH MOBUTU IN MUNICH LAST FEBRUARY, AND THUS OBTAINED AGREEMENT FOR EARLY HIGH LEVEL TALKS ON INDEMNITIES FOR BELGIANS AFFECTED BY MEASURES STEMMING FROM MOBUTU'S NOVEMBER 30 SPEECH. BELGIAN EMBASSY DOES NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY, WIDELY BRUITED IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THAT MOBUTU MIGHT BE USING CHOME AFFAIR TO TORPEDO THOSE TALKS. EVEN IF HE DOES NOT, BELGIAM EMBASSY IS CONCERNED OVER PROSPECT OF BEING TREATED IN DUE COURSE "LIKE ANY OTHER EMBASSY."

ANDREW

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